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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/734,246	12/11/2000	David S. Brombal	NORT-0083-US(13332RRUS01U	3738

7590 07/15/2004

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Houston, TX 77024

EXAMINER
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TRAN, ELLEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2134

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/734,246

Applicant(s)

BROMBAL, DAVID S.

Examiner

Ellen C Tran

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communication: original application filed  
11 December 2000.

2. Claims 1-24 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 17, and 22 are  
independent claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the  
basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed  
in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for  
patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an  
international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this  
subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United  
States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language

4. **Claims 1-24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stoltz  
et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,615,264 (hereinafter '264).

**As to independent claim 1, "A method to enable tracking of a network  
device capable of communicating over a network, comprising: receiving  
information identifying a user over the network; receiving an asset identifier of  
the network device associated with the user; and associating the user identifying  
information with the asset identifier"** is taught in '264 col. 3, lines 6-31.

**As to dependent claim 2, “wherein receiving the user identifying information comprises receiving user login information”** is shown in ‘264 col. 3, lines 13-16.

**As to dependent claim 3, “wherein receiving the asset identifier comprises receiving at least one of an asset tag, an identifier of a processor in the network device, and a serial number of the network device”** is disclosed in ‘264 col. 8, lines 17-44.

**As to dependent claim 4, “further comprising storing the associated user identifying information and asset identifier in a table”** is taught in ‘264 col. 9, lines 65-67.

**As to dependent claim 5, “further comprising receiving a request to track the network device and accessing the table to extract one of the asset identifier or the user identifying information”** is shown in ‘264 col. 15, lines 23-56.

**As to dependent claim 6, “wherein the table contains plural asset identifiers associated with plural network devices, and wherein accessing the table comprises accessing the table to extract one of the plural asset identifiers”** is disclosed in ‘264 col. 11, line 55 through col. 12, line 48.

**As to dependent claim 7, “further comprising: receiving information identifying a second user; receiving an asset identifier of a second network device associated with the second user; associating the second user identifying information and the second network device asset identifier; and storing the**

**second user identifying information and the second network device asset identifier in the table**” is taught in ‘264 col. 11, line 55 through col. 12, line 48.

**As to dependent claim 8, “wherein receiving the asset identifier comprises receiving the asset identifier from a database in a management server”** is shown in ‘264 col. 11, line 55 through col. 12, line 48.

**As to dependent claim 9, “wherein receiving the asset identifier comprises receiving the asset identifier from the network device”** is disclosed in ‘264 col. 8, lines 17-44.

**As to independent claim 10, “A system for use on a network, comprising: a storage unit containing a table storing asset identifiers of network devices and information identifying users of the network devices; and”**is taught in ‘264 col. 11, lines 55-68;

**“a controller adapted to update the table when users log onto the network”** is shown in ‘264 col. 10, lines 5-8.

**As to dependent claim 11,** this claim is substantially similar to claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**As to dependent claim 12, “wherein the controller is adapted to receive an asset identifier of a network device associated with each user during a login procedure”** is shown in ‘264 col. 3, lines 6-31.

**As to dependent claim 13, “wherein the controller is adapted to store a time indication in the table to represent time of usage of a network device by each user”** is disclosed in ‘264 col. 7, lines 23-31.

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**As to dependent claim 14, "wherein the time indication comprises a time stamp created during a login procedure by each user"** is taught in '264 col. 7, lines 23-35.

**As to dependent claims 15 and 16**, these claims are substantially similar to claims 3 and 5; therefore they are rejected along the same rationale.

**As to independent claim 17**, this claim is directed to a storage medium containing instructions of the method of claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**As to dependent claim 18, "wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to further associate the user identifying information with network access time and date information"** is shown in '264 col. 7, lines 23-31.

**As to dependent claims 19, 20 and 21**, these claims are substantially similar to claims 4, 6, and 2; therefore they are rejected along the same rationale.

**As to independent claim 22, "A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and containing instructions that when executed cause a system to: store, in a storage device, asset identifiers of network devices and associated information identifying users of the network devices"** is disclosed in col. 11, lines 55-68;

**"receive, from a node, a request for identifying a user of a first network device; and"** is taught in col. 3, lines 3-61;

**"communicate the user identifying information associated with the first network device to the node"** is shown in col. 12, lines 1-48.

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**As to dependent claim 23**, this claim is substantially similar to claim 5, and is rejected along the same rationale.

**As to dependent claim 24**, this claim is substantially similar to the combination of claims 4 and 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

***Conclusion***

5 The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Li et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,012,088	Jan. 04, 2000
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Sitaraman et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,427,170	Jul. 30, 2002
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6 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ellen C Tran whose telephone number is

(703) 305-8917. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory A Morse can be reached on (703) 308-4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

*Ellen. Tran*  
*Patent Examiner*  
*Technology Center 2134*  
8 July, 2004

  
**NORMAN M. WRIGHT**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**